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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 9 and 14 (b)

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MINORITIES

Letter dated 22 March 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith,* a statement by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Milan Milutinovic. I would like to ask you to have it circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 9 and 14 (b).

(Signed): Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The enclosure is reproduced as received, in English only.

STATEMENT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILAN MILUTINOVIC

In the Paris talks on a political agreement for resolving problems in Kosovo and metohija, the delegation of the government of the Republic of Serbia has at all times confirmed that we are for peace and for solutions that will make possible the peaceful life of all citizens in the southern Serbian province, Serbian President Milan Milutinovic said on his return to Belgrade. Our position is fully expressed in the text of the agreement signed by our delegation and which has been delivered to all the members of the Contact Group and presented to the public. Our proposed agreement is substantive autonomy. More notably, it is an autonomy which is realistic, whose institutions can live and function and which can satisfy the interests and needs of all people concerned. Viewed from legal, political, international, human standpoints - the autonomy which we are proposing will endure any objective test.

We expect that our approach, in the continuation of the political process, will be taken into consideration, since it is in full conformity with the principles of the Contact Group and guarantees the realization of solutions by peaceful, political means and in the interest of all. Our efforts will be further intensified in that respect. As for the signatures on the "Agreement" of separatist-terrorist organizations, they have initialled demands for secession. Everything was state-managed in the form of a construction of something which does not exists as a document and which had not been discussed or adopted by the Contact Group in Rambouillet or in Paris. The core of the construction was "explained" and confirmed by a statement of the delegation of separatist-terrorist organizations that their signatures were for independence, invoking the occupation of our country by NATO troops, and a referendum for secession. The statement explains the real nature of the expectations of separatists and terrorists and their western mentors.

In addition, what happened in Paris is an absurdity without precedent because one part of the international community, not only allowed a unilateral signature of a so-called "Agreement", and interference in the affairs of a sovereign state, but two ambassadors of the so-called Troika also signed unacceptable, and for the entire civilized world, aspirations of separatists and terrorists and their "rights" to summon a foreign military force to protect their demands and terrorist actions. By so doing they have neglected a basic fact, even if a joint political agreement had been reached and signed, the issue of relations with the international community regarding its implementation would be a matter between FR Yugoslavia and the international community, and not that of H. Thaqi and others. All these actions run counter basic rules of international relations. Attempts to glorify the unprecedented action makes the absurdity all the greater. All those who truly want to help a political solution should put a stop to threats, fabrications and deceitful actions and, in the continuation of the political process, change their approach, clearly define the rules, and ensure direct talks. That is the only way that can lead to a political agreement.

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